



Moab Division of Fire Management

Price Field Office, Moab Field Office, Monticello Field Office

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Final Phase of Prescribed fire on Salt Creek Mesa

San Juan County, Utah... Last fall, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Monticello Field Office conducted prescribed fire on Salt Creek Mesa southwest of Dugout Ranch as a range management effort. The last phase of the project will start September 9th, and continue through the fall until completed.

Congress has recognized the need to reintroduce fire into our wildlands ecosystem. Years of fire suppression have allowed our forests and woodlands to become overgrown, unhealthy and have enabled exotic species to invade the territory. Both natural resources and communities can be severely impacted by the extreme fire behavior that exists in these undesirable conditions.

It takes the right combination of weather, temperature, moisture and fuels to successfully treat project areas with prescribed fire. September and October's cooler days, mild conditions, and fewer chances for rain, makes the fall the ideal time for using prescribed fire in southeastern Utah.

The Salt Creek Mesa project includes approximately 1,340 acres of BLM administered public lands and 280 acres of School & Institutional Trust Land Administration Lands (State of Utah). The area has been prepared for prescribed fire and broken up into smaller units. During this final phase the last two units totaling approximately 700 acres will be treated. These last units will be burned one at a time to manage the fire and minimize the need for additional resources. Fire fighters will be lighting the fire with drip torches which enables them to control the size and heat of the fire.

Once the burn is complete the area will be reseeded with a mix of more desirable native and non-native plants and grasses. The site will be allowed to rest for 2 growing seasons before the permitted cattle are allowed back into the area.

The goal of the project is both to improve range conditions for grazing and browse for local elk herds and reduce hazardous fuels that pose a threat to health and safety of the public and natural resources.

For more fire information go to website www.utahfireinfo.gov.

Remember only you can prevent wildfires.

Do your part. Don't start wildfires.

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